

Amended Claims:

Claims 1, 9, 21, 30, 31 and 37 are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrical apparatus, comprising:

at least one blade on an end of an interconnection element, said blade having a given length and oriented on the interconnection element such that said length runs substantially parallel to a horizontal wiping motion of said blade relative to an electrical terminal when the interconnection element is placed in wiping contact with the electrical terminal.

9. (Amended) A tip structure, comprising:

a foot having an upper and a lower surface; and,

at least one blade on said upper surface of said foot, said blade having a given length and oriented on said foot such that said length runs substantially parallel to a horizontal wiping motion of said foot.

21. (Amended) A tip structure, comprising:

a foot having an upper and a lower surface; and,

at least one blade on said upper surface of said foot, said blade having a given length and oriented on said foot such that said length is within approximately $\pm 45^\circ$ of an axis parallel to a horizontal wiping motion of said foot.

30. (Amended) An electrical contact structure comprising:

a plurality of interconnection elements disposed in relationship with one another;

a plurality of tip structures affixed to respective ones of said interconnection elements, each of said tip structures further comprising:

at least one blade on a contact point of a respective one of said interconnection elements, said blade having a given length and oriented on the respective one of said interconnection elements such that said length runs substantially parallel to a horizontal wiping motion of the respective one of said interconnection elements when the respective one of said interconnection elements deflects across a terminal of an electrical component to make [makes] an electrical contact.

31. (Amended) The electrical contact structure of claim 30 wherein the horizontal motion of said blade [foot] occurs when said tip structure makes electrical contact with an [en] electrical surface.

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37. (Amended) A method of making an electrical contact structure, comprising the steps of:

forming a trench in a sacrificial substrate;

depositing at least one layer of at least one conductive material in said trench to form a blade having a given length, an upper surface, and a lower surface; and,

coupling an interconnection element to said lower surface of said blade, wherein said blade is oriented such that said length of said blade runs substantially parallel to a horizontal wiping motion of said blade.